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# Littlehampton Urban District

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

# 1947

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BY

ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW

M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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# LITTLEHAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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10, BULKINGTON AVENUE,  
WORTHING.

*June, 1948.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1947, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health on the 31st December, 1947.

The rates for 1947 as compared with the average rates for the past ten years are as follows :—

	<i>Average, 1937-46</i>	<i>1947.</i>
Birth Rate, per 1,000 population	... 17.9	22.01
Death Rate, per 1,000 population	... 14.2	12.4
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 births	47	32

These rates have been calculated on the estimated resident population for the mid-year 1947 supplied to me by the Registrar General.

The various mortality rates of the district during the past year as compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the urban and rural districts of West Sussex are shown in a comparative table on page 3.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW.

The Chairman and Members of the  
Littlehampton Urban District Council.

**NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.**

Littlehampton is a small town situated on the South Coast, about half-way between Worthing and Bognor. It is here that the River Arun, coming down from Pulborough through Arundel, enters the sea, and has given the town the facilities of a port for many centuries.

The underlying geological stratum is brick-earth.

Industrial employment is chiefly in connection with fishing, boat building, brick making and engineering. The letting of apartments to, and the catering for the needs of visitors, provide the main source of income to many of the inhabitants. There are also a number of farms in the district.

**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

- Area (acres), 2,720.
- Resident Population (1947), estimated by Registrar General, 12,950.
- Population (1931) Census, 10,178.
- Rateable Value (1947), £128,853.
- Sum represented by 1d. Rate, £490.
- No. of inhabited houses end of 1947 according to Rate Book—3,502.

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.**

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	267	128	139	—Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 22.01
Illegitimate ...	18	11	7	
Stillbirths ...	6	4	2	—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 20.6.
Deaths ...	161	76	85	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.4.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :—  
From sepsis—None.      From other causes—None.



## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births, 32.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 30.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 56.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 25.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), None.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), One.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality, during the year which has received or required comment :—

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year

## Comparative Statistics, 1947.

			England and Wales	West Sussex Urban.	West Sussex Rural.	Littlehampton U.D.
Birth Rate	...	...	20.5	17.6	19.2	22.01
Death Rate	...	...	12.0	15.2	12.2	12.4
Infantile Death Rate	...	...	41	30	33	32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
Death Rate	...	...	0.47	0.35	0.38	0.39
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	—	0.06	0.08	0.15
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	1.85	2.5	1.9	1.9
Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 births	...	...	1.17	0.7	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 population			—	—	—	0.69
Diphtheria—Incidence Rate per 1,000 population			—	—	—	0.08
Enteric Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	...	...	—	—	—	0.08

## EXCEPTIONAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No special causes of sickness or invalidity have evidenced themselves during the past year.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The causes of death and the ages of the nine children who died under one year of age, are as follows :—

CAUSE OF DEATH				Age	Sex
1.	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	2 days.	M
2.	Meningitis (Pfeiffers) Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	3 months.	M
3.	Broncho Pneumonia Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	1 month.	M
4.	Gastro-enteritis Pyloric Stenosis (operation)	...	...	1 month.	M
5.	Broncho Pneumonia Bilateral atelectasis of the lungs	...	...	2 weeks.	M
6.	Prematurity	...	...	5 hours.	F
7.	Tuberculous Meningitis Miliary Tuberculosis	...	...	8 months.	F
8.	Infectious Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	7 months.	F
9.	Prematurity (4½lbs. at birth)	...	...	2 weeks.	F

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Public Health Staff.

The Public Health Staff consists of the Medical Officer (the Littlehampton Urban District Council is one of the Authorities comprising the West Sussex Southern United (M.O.H.) Districts) the Senior Sanitary Inspector (Mr. McGarry), and an additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Peskett, who has just qualified and been appointed in place of Mr. Aze who left in May, 1947.

The Council have an arrangement with the local District Nursing Committee whereby the nursing of all cases of Measles and German Measles is undertaken by the District Nurses.

### Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL. The Littlehampton District Nursing Association employ four nurses, two of them do general district nursing.

(b) For Infectious Diseases the Local Sanitary Authority pay an annual fee of £50 to the Local District Nursing Association so that the services of the nurse shall be available to visit and provide nursing services to all cases of Measles, German Measles, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia where necessary.

Grants are made by the County Council to the County Nursing Association, for various Nursing Services, including Child Welfare work, School Nurses' work, Tuberculosis health visiting, and as subsidies to provide Nurse-Midwives in areas which would otherwise be without a Midwife.

### **Midwives.**

There are seven Midwives practising in the District, four in private practice, and three District Nurses.

### **Maternity.**

A Maternity and Child Welfare centre is provided at Littlehampton Health Centre, Elm Grove Road.

The following meetings are held :—

Tuesdays, 2.30—4.30.

Thursdays, 2.30—4.30.

A medical practitioner is in attendance every week (alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays).

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held fortnightly on a Tuesday at 10.30 a.m.

### **School Clinics.**

School Clinics for minor ailments are held at Littlehampton Health Centre.

An Eye Clinic is held when required at the Health Centre.

Dental Clinics are held periodically at Littlehampton and Lyminster for the treatment of children with decayed teeth.

Ear Clinics are held from time to time at the Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital, Brighton, and the Chichester Health Centre, and appointments are made for children suffering from ear disease to attend.

### **Orthopaedic Clinics.**

These are held at Chichester Health Centre to which Littlehampton school children are taken by appointment for treatment of crippling defects. The Orthopaedic Nurse supervises children who have been prescribed exercises at these Clinics.



## **Tuberculosis Clinics.**

The West Sussex County Council hold a Tuberculosis Clinic at the Worthing Hospital on Mondays at 10.30 a.m., and at Health Centre, Chapel Sreet, Chichester, on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., both of which are available to the residents of Littlehampton. Appointments for first attendance should be made through the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chichester.

## **Venereal Diseases.**

The West Sussex County Council have made arrangements entitling residents of the County to attend the Clinics for Venereal Diseases held at the following Hospitals :—

Worthing Hospital—Wednesdays, women 2-4 p.m., men 4.30-5.30 p.m. ; Fridays, women 3-5 p.m., men 5.30-6.30 p.m.

The Royal Portsmouth Hospital, for men on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and for women on Mondays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

## **Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.**

### **1.—TUBERCULOSIS.**

i. Aldingbourne House Sanatorium, near Chichester, the property of the West Sussex County Council (Adults 66 beds).

ii. A Tuberculosis Pavilion at the Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean, Durrington, near Worthing. This Pavilion has been provided by and is under the control of the West Sussex County Council, 12 beds.

iii. The West Sussex County Council send patients suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital and College, Alton, Hants, the London Chest Hospital, and to the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.

### **2.—MATERNITY.**

The West Sussex County Council send cases to :—

- (1) The Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital, 79-80, Buckingham Road, Brighton, for the reception of abnormal cases.



- (2) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, for the reception of normal cases when the home circumstances are unsatisfactory.
- (3) The Worthing Hospital for the reception of abnormal and other cases in the Maternity Home.
- (4) Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington.
- (5) St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester (emergency cases only).

### 3.—CHILDREN.

The West Sussex Council County send cases to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Dyke Road, Brighton, and to Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.

### 4.—FEVER.

Cases of infectious disease are moved into the Worthing Borough Isolation Hospital at Swandean. Four beds are re-retained at £30 per annum each when not occupied and £3 per week each is paid when occupied. Ambulance charge is at the rate of one shilling per mile.

### 5.—SMALLPOX.

The West Sussex County Council have arranged for the isolation of cases of Smallpox at Brede Isolation Hospital, Rye, East Sussex.

## Ambulance Facilities.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES. The Worthing Borough Ambulance is used for the removal of cases to the Isolation Hospital.

(b) There is available for Littlehampton and District an ambulance worked by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Application for its use must be made to Superintendent A. G. King, Fairlawn, Parkside Avenue, Littlehampton. The rule for payment is as follows:—  
“That fees shall be charged for the service of the ambulance to those whose circumstances admit of payment, such fees to be fixed by the Committee, and used for the upkeep, repair and expenses of the ambulance.”

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or By-laws relating to the public health have come into force during 1947.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Infectious Diseases Generally.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

The 9 cases occurred during the year as follows :—

Jan.	Feb.	July	Nov.	Dec.
1	1	4	2	1

#### DIPHTHERIA.

One case occurred during the year, in March. The patient was an adult.

No return cases of either Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria occurred.

The following figures indicate the use that has been made of the facilities for the examination of pathological specimens.

			Total	Positive.	Negative
Throat Swabs (Diphtheria)	...		13	3	10
Throat Swabs (Haemolytic Streptococci)	...	...	9	0	9
Blood (Enteric)	...	...	3	1	2

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	Estimated population mid-year 1947.	Total number of children immunised
Under 5 years of age	1,110	515
5-14 years of age ...	1,880	1,149

In addition, 60 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

#### POLIOMYELITIS.

No case of Ac. Poliomyelitis was notified in the district during the year, but one case of Polio-encephalitis occurred in August. The patient, a boy aged 5 years, was removed to Swandean Hospital. He was discharged at the end of four weeks and made a satisfactory recovery.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

			Total Cases notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	9	1	0
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	1	1	0
Pneumonia	...	...	1	0	6
Measles	...	...	23	2	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	17	0	0
Paratyphoid	...	...	1	1	0

NOTE.—The ages of the cases notified were as follows :—

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Polio- encephalitis	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	1	—	4	2	4	11	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	4	3	1	—	3	5	—	—	1	—	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

Scabies.

During the year 29 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely :—

5 adults

24 school children.

All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding were disinfected by washing or hot ironing.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.			M.	F.
0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	5	0	3	2	3	—	1

No persons died from Tuberculosis who had not been notified during life.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of milk.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a magistrate's order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an Institution for isolation.



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water.**

There is an abundant supply of pure water. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

14 samples of raw water and 17 samples of water after chlorination were sent for bacteriological examination. All the results were satisfactory. Three samples were sent for chemical analysis and proved satisfactory.

Extensions of mains during the year :—

Hill Road Housing Scheme ...	...	563 yards.
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### **Sewers.**

Extension of sewers during the year :—

Lyminster Housing Scheme ...	...	3,474 feet.
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Schemes now under consideration :—

- (a) Sewage disposal works.
- (b) Pumping station on Green.
- (c) Rising main (2 miles).
- (d) Horsham Road Diversion surface water sewer.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

Observations are kept on the river Arun, as it passes through the town to prevent offal and waste materials being thrown into the river.

### **Swimming Baths.**

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

## **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is printed from page 15 to the end of this report, and contains a detailed account of the sanitary inspections made during the past year.

### **SCHOOLS.**

There are six Primary and Secondary schools in the district. All are provided with water closets and with the town water supply.

## HOUSING.

### HOUSING STATISTICS, 1947.

Seventeen new houses were erected during 1947 by private enterprise, and twenty by the Local Authority.

#### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	573
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,191
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	381
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	807
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	384

#### 2.—Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	362
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#### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

No action under Statutory Powers was taken during the year.

#### 4.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding:—

(a)	i.	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	15
	ii.	No. of families dwelling therein ... ..	32
	iii.	No. of persons dwelling therein ... ..	105

(b)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	6
(c)	i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	Nil
	ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases	...			Nil
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...			None

### Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act, 1920.

During the year no application has been made for a certificate under the above Act.

### Houses let in Lodgings.

No action has been necessary under the Bye-laws in force in the district.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

#### 1.—Inspections.

PREMISES	No. on Register.	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. ...	16	60	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. ...	65	78	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total	81	138	2	—

## 2.—Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	2	2	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	3	3	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	5	5	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	13	13	—	—	—
Total ...	29	29	—	2	—

There is one Outworker in the district.



# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR—1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Littlehampton Urban District  
Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you a report of the work carried out during the year 1947, this being my fifteenth Annual Report.

## Inspection of the District.

During the year 7,383 inspections and visits have been made as follows :—

Infectious diseases and contagious diseases (including Tuberculosis) ... ..	388
Nuisances and complaints ... ..	256
Revisits to property under notice ... ..	332
Revisits where work was in progress ... ..	94
Interviews with owners, agents or builders ... ..	248
Drainage inspections, smoke and water tests to drains	307
Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops ... ..	267
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ... ..	149
Bakehouses ... ..	68
Factories ... ..	70
Workplaces ... ..	3
Re refuse receptacles and sanitary conveniences ... ..	244
Re overcrowding ... ..	22
Ice cream premises ... ..	365
Refreshment rooms ... ..	215
Cinemas ... ..	8
Fried fish shops ... ..	41
Food preparation premises ... ..	233
Re Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ... ..	1,780
Re tents, vans, sheds and similar structures ... ..	124
Re swine and fowls ... ..	34
Re water supply ... ..	38
Public conveniences and urinals ... ..	5
Stables ... ..	2
Vermin ... ..	101
Refuse accumulations ... ..	97
Miscellaneous ... ..	812
No. of houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	381
Re Shops Act, 1934 ... ..	549

No. of houses measured and recorded under the Housing Act, 1936, for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of rent books examined for permitted number	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	134
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	4

### Samples taken :

Water :	Bacteriological examination :	...	...	...	...	31
	Chemical analysis :	...	...	...	...	3
Milk samples :	...	...	...	...	...	86
Cream samples	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ice Cream samples	...	...	...	...	...	59

### Notices served :

Statutory :	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Informal :	...	...	...	...	...	...	799

### Outstanding Notices.

At the end of 1947, 35 informal notices had not been complied with, but in 13 cases the work was in progress, while in the remaining 22 cases instructions had been given by the owners to builders.

### Complaints.

During the year a total of 470 complaints were received, and had reference to the following matters :—

Condition of house	...	...	...	...	...	53
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective roofs and windows	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective condition of fireplaces, cooking ranges, boilers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10

Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective and choked condition of W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective and choked condition of drains	...	...	...	...	...	69
Obstruction of light	...	...	...	...	...	2
Need for new or additional, and defective condition of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	13
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	45
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	114
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smells	...	...	...	...	...	14
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals and swine	...	...	...	...	...	12
Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	28
Defective roads and pavements	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous structures	...	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	4
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	...	3
Committing of nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public conveniences—need for cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4

**Sanitary improvements and defects remedied during the year :**

	1947	1926-47 (22 yrs.)
Roofs repaired	290	1,208
Windows repaired	160	1,325
Floors relaid and repaired	82	910
Ceilings repaired and cleansed	169	1,541
Staircases repaired	11	104
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired	77	543
Walls repaired and repointed	478	3,701
Insufficient ventilation remedied	17	99
Insufficient lighting remedied	19	107
Dampness remedied	321	2352
Washing coppers provided or repaired	10	216
Eaves or downspouting provided or repaired	121	630

Sanitary improvements and defects remedied during the year (cont.)

	1947	1926-47 (22 yrs.)
Doors provided or repaired ... ..	46	428
Chimney stacks repaired ... ..	110	498
Cupboards cleansed or repaired ... ..	1	14
Defective flues repaired ... ..	7	50
Wash-houses built ... ..	—	1
Sanitary conveniences repaired or provided with cisterns ... ..	146	951
Additional water closets... ..	—	61
Privy middens abolished ... ..	—	5
Ashplaces abolished ... ..	—	7
New dustbins and covers provided ... ..	114	862
Drains opened and cleansed ... ..	100	714
Drains relaid and repaired ... ..	12	292
Inspection chambers, interceptors and traps provided to drains ... ..	43	401
Overflowing cesspools emptied ... ..	1	162
Sanitary sinks provided ... ..	36	174
Sink or bath wastes repaired ... ..	19	184
Defective sink waste channels repaired	14	71
Baths provided ... ..	2	29
Urinals, etc.—cleansed, repaired, reconstructed or fitted with automatic flushing apparatus ... ..	11	147
Soil pipes repaired ... ..	2	45
Yards paved or yard paving repaired ... ..	16	229
Yards cleansed ... ..	4	141
Verminous rooms cleansed and bedding destroyed ... ..	7	337
Overcrowding remedied ... ..	—	140
Rooms cleansed ... ..	196	2,645
Accumulations of rubbish and manure removed ... ..	45	539
Offensive or stagnant water drained from ponds, tanks, etc. ... ..	2	16
Nuisances abated from the keeping of animals and swine ... ..	7	104
Caravans : insanitary sites and providing of W.Cs., etc. ... ..	24	40
Smoke nuisances abated ... ..	1	14
Water removed from cellars ... ..	—	—
Town's water laid on ... ..	2	790
Wells closed ... ..	—	10



# Sanitary improvements and defects remedied during the year (cont.)

	1947	1926-47 (22 yrs.)
Water pumps repaired, pipes cleansed, etc. ... ..	15	41
Cinemas : dressing room accommodation improved or cleansed or urinals provided, etc. ... ..	—	16
Pantries provided and ventilated to the open air ... ..	3	108
Sewage works reconstructed or installed	—	2
Food premises : Drains cleansed and sanitary accommodation repaired, walls and ceilings repaired ...	59	389
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919— contraventions ... ..	8	193
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops : cleansed or repaired and contra- ventions remedied, etc. ... ..	6	453
Bakehouses : cleansing, repairs, etc. ...	10	232
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 —contraventions ... ..	6	198
Slaughterhouses : removal of refuse, cleansing or repairs ... ..	—	133
Fried Fish Shops : walls and ceilings cleansed, premises repaired, addi- tional drainage provided, etc. ...	10	63
Factories : sanitary accommodation improved or repaired, rooms repaired and cleansed ... ..	19	242
Ice cream premises : cleansed, repaired, dirty and uncovered containers, etc.	28	185
Shops Act, 1934—contraventions ...	12	69
Housing Act, 1936 : Section 62— contraventions ... ..	—	35
Workplaces—(P.H.A. 1936) ... ..	—	14

## Housing.

Details showing the number of houses inspected, and the action taken under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts for the remedy of defective or unsatisfactory conditions of dwelling-houses are to be found at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. It will be seen that 573 houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts for defective or unsatisfactory conditions.

One house was found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. An Undertaking under Sub-section 3 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was accepted.

Owing to the acute shortage of housing accommodation, a total of 7 houses, for which Undertakings under Sub-section 3 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, had previously been accepted, were reconditioned and the Undertakings accordingly cancelled.

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

There are 4 permanent sites for Moveable Dwellings in Littlehampton. 3 are situated on the West side of the River Arun and are licensed for a total of 33 trailer caravans.

The largest site is situated at the North of the district and is licensed for 100 tents and trailers.

Although camping increased during the Summer months of 1947, reaching a peak in August, there are a large number of trailer caravans on the sites during the whole of the year due to present housing shortages.

All sites are provided with town's water, water-closets or Elsan closets, and were maintained in good condition throughout the year.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

At the end of 1947 there were 6 cowkeepers, all of whom sold their milk wholesale.

There were 5 retailers on the register, 4 resident in the district, and one who sells milk in the district from premises outside, and milk was sold from 4 premises.

The approximate number of milking cows in the district is 162.

149 inspections were made during the year, and contraventions of the regulations as detailed below were observed.

Dirty condition of milk bottles	...	...	2
Defective condition of floor	...	...	1
Need for new boiler house	...	...	1
Need for cleansing of premises	...	...	1
Lack of cleanliness in methods	...	...	1

**Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.**

The following licences were granted during 1947 under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

To retail Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	5
To Pasteurise and retail as Pasteurised	...	...	2
To retail Pasteurised milk	...	...	1

73 samples of designated milk (69 Pasteurised or Heat-treated, 3 Accredited and 1 Tuberculin Tested) have been sent for bacteriological examination. 1 sample of Accredited milk and 16 samples of Pasteurised milk fell below the standard prescribed by the Regulations. Of the 16 samples of Pasteurised or Heat-treated milk which failed the tests, 11 failed the Methylene Blue Test and 6 failed the Phosphatase Test.

**Clean Milk Production.**

During the year, 74 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination—73 of designated milk and 1 of ordinary milk.

The following tables give the number of samples which did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, and also the number which failed the Coli Test.

**Produced in Littlehampton.**

Grade of Milk :	No. of samples	No. which did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Test :	No. which failed Coli Test
Accredited ...	3	—	1
Ordinary ...	1	1	—
Pasteurised or Heat-treated ...	69	11	—
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—

**Produced and sent in from outside the District.**

Grade of milk :	No. of samples	No which did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Test.	No. which failed the Coli Test.
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	—



Where a sample is found to be deficient in fat, the matter is reported to the Food and Drugs Authority.

The Bacteriologist reported on the results on testing for fat :

<i>Grade of Milk :</i>				<i>Average percentage per sample:</i>
Accredited	...	...	...	4.45%
Pasteurised	...	...	...	3.65%
Ordinary	...	...	...	4.80%

The following tables show for the years 1926 to 1947 inclusive the number of samples which failed to comply with the prescribed conditions, and of these, the number which failed the Coli Test. (The standard for Accredited milk is taken for ordinary milk).

#### **Produced in Littlehampton.**

Grade of Milk.	No. of samples.	No. which did not comply with the prescribed conditions	No. of these which failed the Coli Test.
Accredited ...	181	46	48
Tuberculin Tested	8	4	3
Pasteurised or Heat-treated ...	366	56	16
Ordinary ...	227	60	55

#### **Produced and sent in from outside the district.**

Grade of milk.	No. of samples.	No. which did not comply with the prescribed conditions	No. of these which failed the Coli Test.
Accredited ...	85	27	33
Tuberculin Tested	89	12	8
Pasteurised or Heat-treated ...	33	7	6
Ordinary ...	285	116	102

From 1926 to 1947 inclusive, the number of samples of Ordinary milk which gave results equal to the standard for Accredited milk were as follows :



Produced in Littlehampton	...	...	167 or 73.00%
Produced and sent in from outside the district	...	...	169 or 59.29%

All milk sold in Littlehampton, with the exception of bottled Tuberculin Tested milk, is Heat-treated.

12 samples of milk have been taken and sent for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and negative results were obtained on such samples.

Steam for sterilising churns, cans, measures, etc., is in use at all Dairies and Farms.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There has been no slaughtering in this district since the Government Controlled Slaughtering ceased on March 14th, 1942.

During the year 267 visits were paid to Butchers' shops and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed :

Premises in need of cleansing and redecoration	...	1
Need for proper overalls and hats for meat carriers	...	1
Dirty condition of refrigerator	... ..	1
Defective and dirty condition of dustbins	... ..	2
Unsatisfactory premises being used for storage of meat		1

### Bakehouses.

There are seven bakehouses in the district, two of which are underground.

68 inspections have been carried out, and the following unsatisfactory conditions were noticed :

Defective condition of roof	... ..	1
Unhygienic method of covering cakes, etc.	... ..	2
Dirty and defective condition of walls	... ..	2
Bakehouse in need of cleansing	... ..	2
Smoking in bakehouse	... ..	1
Need for additional ventilation	... ..	1
Need for additional lighting	... ..	1

## **Fried Fish Shops.**

There are 4 fried fish shops operating in the district at present.

41 visits have been paid to the fried fish shops and the following unsatisfactory conditions were noticed :

Need for additional ventilation ...	...	...	...	3
Need for cleansing of premises	...	...	...	3
Need for provision of sanitary sink	...	...	...	1
Need for additional lighting ...	...	...	...	1
Utensils and equipment in need of cleansing	...	...	...	1
Refuse accumulation ...	...	...	...	1

## **Restaurants, Cafes and Refreshment Rooms.**

There are 44 premises on the register and 215 inspections of these premises have been made.

The following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were found :

Premises in need of cleansing and redecoration	...	18
Need for additional lighting ...	...	2
Need for additional ventilation ...	...	4
Dirty and defective condition of walls ...	...	3
Defective roofs ...	...	3
Defective walls ...	...	4
Need for paving of yard ...	...	1
Accumulations ...	...	3
Defective and dirty condition of W.C.	...	4
Choked and defective condition of drains	...	5
Need for additional dustbins ...	...	3
Unsatisfactory premises for storage of food	...	1
Dirty condition of cafe equipment	...	2
Dirty condition of sanitary sinks	...	1
Need for provision of refrigerator	...	1

Restaurants are being gradually improved in construction, as well as amenities, as and when materials are available.

## Food Stores and Shops.

All premises where food is prepared and stored are periodically visited. The following were surrendered as unfit for food :

508 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. corned beef	1 tin boiled mutton
120 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. corned mutton	3 tins potted meat
65 lbs. rump steak	23 tins carrots
1,092 lbs. beef	3 tins Gaffelbriter
80 lbs. bacon	5 tins hake
4 stone dried haddocks	1 tin veal loaf
6 stone bloaters	5 tins sardines
6 stone sprats	1 lb. semolina
37 stone, 3 lbs. kippers	66 packets tea
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone skate wing	2 dozen eggs
3 stone bream fillets	65 baskets cherries
5 stone dabs.	39 tins fruit
5 stone headless halibut	1 tin apple pudding
73 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone cod	14 tins mussels
3 stone sprag fillets	3 tins cod
75 stone herrings	17 tins sausages
6 tins Norwegian bristling	78 tins salmon
3 tins bacon	34 tins peas
10 bottles marinated fish	13 tins spaghetti
6 bags flour	14 tins soup
261 lbs. biscuits	178 tins milk
2 tins pilchards	74 tins stewed steak
3 tins tomatoes	22 tins baked beans
25 tins orange juice	13 tins ritter beans
1 tin fish spread	3 tins pate de foie
2 tins minced loaf	1 tin meat and vegetable
13 tins jam	7 tins meat roll
11 tins matjes fillets	3 tins beef and cereal
60 tins Gruppy Snacks	3 lb. prunes
12 tins spinach puree	19 boxes dates
7 tins stringless beans	9 lbs. cheese

## Shops Act, 1934.

During the year 549 visits have been paid to shops, and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were found :

Dirty and defective W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty condition of yard	...	...	...	...	3
Defective and obstructed drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Defective condition of windows	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty and defective wash-hand basin	...	...	...	...	1

The necessary work was carried out in all cases.

Ice Cream.

During the year there were 42 premises at which ice cream was prepared, stored or offered for sale, and in connection with these premises 365 inspections were made.

The following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were found and in each case the necessary work was carried out.

Defective or unsatisfactory condition of refrigerator	1
Contraventions—name and address of vendor not inscribed on barrows	4
Defective and choked condition of drains	3
Premises in need of cleansing	1
Need for new refrigerator	4
Need for new ice cream pasteuriser	3
Need for additional ventilation	3
Need for additional lighting	1
Accumulations	1
Defective walls of preparation room—need for renewal	1
Unsatisfactory storage of ice cream	1
Insufficient means of sterilisation	1
Defective or insufficient refuse bins	2
Defective condition of W.C.	1
Unsatisfactory premises for manufacture of ice cream	1

In many instances proper factory rooms are being provided for the manufacture of ice cream.

59 samples of ice cream were taken and sent for bacteriological examination during the year, and the results are given as follows :

No. of samples :	Average number of bacteria per 1 ml.	Presence of Coliform Bacilli in 1/100th ml.
3	Too numerous to count	25
28	70,642	
28	Methylene Blue Test	

The 28 samples examined under the Methylene Blue Test gave the following results :

Grade I	3
Grade II	3
Grade III	7
Grade IV	15



Samples of ice cream were taken for comparative bacteriological and also grading examinations, and the results were at times alarming. A sample with a low bacterial count and no B.Coli in 1/100th ml. gave a Grade IV result, while an apparently dirty sample with a high count and faecal coli, gave a Grade I result. Such results are so baffling and difficult to interpret, that there is need for clarification on the matter so that ice cream vendors as well as health officials can appreciate which ice creams are not only free from pathogenic bacteria, but are also clean.

The average fat content was 4.13%.

### **Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83, 84 and 85.**

During the year it was necessary to have 48 verminous rooms cleansed. No bedding was removed for destruction and no person removed to a Cleansing Station.

### **Disinfection.**

During the year 134 rooms have been disinfected, and at Mill House, Mill Lane, Littlehampton, the following articles were disinfected in the steam disinfector.

10 mattresses.      63 blankets.      8 bedcovers.      2 rolls felt.

### **Rag Flock Act.**

No premises have been found where Rag Flock is in use or on sale.

### **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.**

114 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. In each case visits were paid until the rats or mice were exterminated.

The major infestation in the district is on the land used for controlled tipping on the West bank of the River Arun. This area receives constant and systematic treatment... The sewers also receive systematic treatment and infestations found on Agricultural land are referred to the West Sussex War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The Private Dwellings Scheme, operated at the suggestion of the Ministry of Food, was in progress at the beginning of the year and completed by 31st March. The scheme consisted of a thorough

survey of the district to reveal rat infestations and for this purpose the district was divided into 8 areas, each of which was surveyed and the infestations found eliminated. In most cases the infestations found were of a minor character and in many cases due to the keeping of poultry in back gardens, etc.

On the completion of the scheme a Free Service was again brought into operation ; no charge being made for rat extermination except in cases where extensive work is required. This has proved very satisfactory.

Extermination work is successfully accomplished by the use of Zinc Phosphide and Red Squill Poison baits, "Horo Tube" and "Cynogas" Fumigation, and trapping. The estimated number of rats killed during the year was 1,390 (Ministry of Food formula).

### **Eradication of Bed-bugs.**

4 Non-Council and 2 Council houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs. These were disinfested by the Council by the use of D.D.T. insecticides.

No houses were disinfested by the use of Hydrogen Cyanide, nor has it been found necessary to disinfest the furniture of prospective tenants to Council houses.

### **Sanitary Accommodation.**

The approximate number of water-closets in the district at the end of the year was 4019.

There are approximately 16 pail-closets in use, but these are situated at Toddington and other parts of the district which are not connected to the sewers. The scheme for sewerage in the Eastern area which was in progress, was temporarily suspended because of the war.

House refuse is collected fortnightly in winter, and weekly in summer by the use of covered carts and lorries, and the refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping on the West side of the river Arun.

### **Public Conveniences.**

There are eight public Conveniences, six Ladies' ; and seven Gentlemen's and they have been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year.

Sunshine and Rainfall Statistics.

Month :	SUNSHINE (hours)			RAINFALL (inches)		
	1947	1946	Average for 33 yrs.	1947	1946	Average for 33 yrs.
January	81.7	82.1	64.9	3.02	2.13	3.08
February	25.6	65.7	81.3	2.50	3.13	2.03
March	94.2	95.9	139.5	7.20	1.23	1.73
April	186.9	218.4	171.6	1.54	1.90	1.91
May	205.9	217.3	224.7	1.25	3.25	1.87
June	237.0	191.6	236.8	2.68	2.57	1.55
July	222.0	250.5	217.9	1.96	1.39	2.19
August	281.0	187.2	213.5	0.79	4.95	2.16
September	186.6	129.5	164.6	1.29	3.07	2.20
October	155.6	101.5	123.9	0.75	0.73	2.88
November	81.3	69.1	73.9	1.37	4.59	3.29
December	55.1	84.0	58.2	2.39	3.17	3.00
Totals	1812.9	1692.8	1770.8	26.74	32.11	27.89

I wish to express my gratitude to the Members of the Public Health Committee and to Councillor Mr. Wheeler, the Chairman of the Committee for assistance and co-operation given me during the year. To Dr. Wilshaw, I am indebted for the valuable guidance and assistance he gave me during the year. I am also grateful to Mr. C. Peskett, Miss J. Purvey, and Miss B. Reeve, for the manner in which they have carried out their duties so satisfactorily.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. McGARRY.







